

STATEMENT OF FREDERICK P. HITZ
STATUTORY INSPECTOR GENERAL--NOMINEE
BEFORE THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
UNITED STATES SENATE
SEPTEMBER 25, 1990

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice Chairman, and Members of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, it is my privilege and honor to appear before you today to discuss my nomination as the first statutory Inspector General for the Central Intelligence Agency. I am grateful for the President's expression of confidence in my abilities to undertake this important assignment, and I approach this new challenge with enthusiasm and determination to make the statutory Inspector General a positive contribution to the management of the Central Intelligence Agency.

My enthusiasm is not without some concern. I come to this position with a clear understanding of the heavy seas upon which the legislation sailed. Despite their opposition to the creation of the statutory IG position, I know that the President and the Director of Central Intelligence are now committed to making this new arrangement work. If confirmed, I believe that I can make a contribution to fulfilling this commitment. You have a full record of my background. I believe that my past experience in CIA; in liaison between the Executive and Legislative Branches at CIA and other Departments; and as a practicing attorney will aid me in the performance of my duties as IG.

I believe that the Inspector General's principal role is to provide objective and independent oversight to the programs and operations of the CIA--to ensure that they are conducted in accordance with applicable law and regulations. This is accomplished by conducting inspections, investigations, and audits of Agency activities; providing recommendations to promote efficiency and to prevent abuse; keeping the DCI fully informed about problems and the progress of corrective action; and ensuring that the Intelligence Committees are informed of significant problems and corrective actions taken.

It is my view that there are two critical elements necessary for effectiveness in this job. First, I believe that it is essential that the IG and his staff understand intelligence operations and procedures. I believe that my prior experience in the intelligence field combined with that of the IG staff--which I shall inherit and develop--will provide this necessary knowledge and understanding of intelligence activities.

Second, the Inspector General and his staff must have the trust and cooperation of Agency employees. Without such cooperation, it would be difficult to conduct thorough reviews and to uncover problems that need correcting. Of significance here is the IG's role in protecting sources and methods and the importance of the IG operating in such a manner as to dispell any perceptions that confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. The statute, while providing ample authority for the IG to competently and effectively carry out his mandate, recognizes the unique mission of the CIA by providing that the IG must take due care to protect sources and methods in IG reports and by providing that the DCI may prohibit the IG from "investigating, carrying out, or completing any investigation or audit" when vital to national security interests. The Intelligence Committees will, of course, be informed when the DCI exercises this prohibition authority and the grounds therefor. These protections should serve to signal our friends abroad that our concern for protection of intelligence sources and methods is undiminished, and that this concern is shared by the Executive and Legislative Branches.

Occasionally, public service affords an opportunity to have an impact on the formative phase of a new organization. The creation of a statutory IG at the CIA is one of those occasions, and I consider myself fortunate, indeed, to have been asked to play a leading role in this endeavor. If confirmed, I am determined to create an Office of Inspector General of which both the Agency and the Intelligence Committees will be proud.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my prepared remarks. I would be happy to answer any questions that you and the Members of the Committee may have.